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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Mario Lopez

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CROWELL & MORING LLP
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP
P.O. BOX 14300
WASHINGTON, DC 20044-4300

EXAMINER

ALI, MOHAMMAD M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3744

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/532,760	Applicant(s) LOPEZ, MARIO	
	Examiner MOHAMMAD M. ALI	Art Unit 3744	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14-16 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14-16 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 September 2008 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-2, 5-10, 14-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Renzo et al., (EP 0542055 A1). Renzo et al., disclose a device comprising controlled cooling of grapes before being subjected to pressing and/or stalk stripping (see column 5, lines 21-23; indicating a step of transporting the grapes to a press or to a maceration vessel); charging the grapes with carbon dioxide from a tank 27 (see line 25 is connected to a high pressured CO₂ tank 25 at the bottom indicating that liquid CO₂ is connected with pipe 25 as it is a known feature in a pressurized CO₂ tank liquid portion remains at the bottom side and the gas portion remains at the top side) during transport via the cooling chamber 4A and 4B; a harvest reception vessel (inherent at the entry point of cooling chamber 4A (loading zone 2); a connection line to harvest reception vessel (inherent as the harvest to be loaded at the loading zone 2); a connection to the press (inherent because the press is performed after the cooling operation as disclosed above); each of the connection lines including conveyor 16, 17 being configured for transporting the grapes wherein at least one feed line (loading zone 2) is provided to at least one of the connection lines 25 through which carbon dioxide is fed into the at least one of the connection lines 16/17; a reservoir/tank contains both liquid and gaseous carbon dioxide (it is inherent a liquid carbon dioxide cylinder is topped by gaseous carbon dioxide); a gaseous carbon dioxide is brought into contact with grapes (as there is nozzles 6 and 21 it inherent that gaseous (after spray

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from nozzles 6 CO₂ liquid becomes gaseous carbon dioxide is brought into contact of the grapes); the grapes moves through movable door 60 as a grape movement valve and then through metering member 14 being another valve ; temperature sensors or probes 33, 72 and 75 for detecting temperatures of grapes; a control circuit 34 controls the temperature of grapes with the help of temperature sensors and carbon dioxide and operation of fans 30 and nozzles 6/21; one or more valves 58 for movement of carbon dioxide; the charging of carbon dioxide is interrupted (flow of CO₂ is controlled by the electronic controller 34 as it is connected with temperature sensors 33, CO₂ control valves 58 and fans 30 so that the grapes are cooled to a predetermined temperature for example 5 degree C; See column 4, lines 1-12).. Regarding 7 degree C, Renzo et al., do not specifically say that cooling degree should be 7 degree C but range of cooling degree as mentioned by Renzo et al. is 0-15 degree C which is known by the Applicant as mentioned in his arguments. It clearly indicates that Renzo et al., is able to maintain the cooling temperature at any point between 0-15 degrees C which includes 7 degree C and Renzo et al., also disclose that a further object to provide a device which enables said steeping to be conducted at different temperature in selective and controlled manner, independently of initial grape temperature and on the basis of grape quality. And on this basis of grape quality Renzo et al., set a selective temperature of 5 degree C out of his temperature range 0 to 15 degree C. Therefore, on the basis of some other grape quality which needs to set a selective temperature of 7 degree C Renzo et al., is able to select the temperature at 7 degree C out of his temperature range 0 to 15 degree C. Therefore, Renzo et al., is capable of maintaining 7 degree C by interrupting the flow of CO₂ as and when necessary. See Fig. 1-4, abstract, column 2, line 41 to column 6, line 4. Regarding maceration process lasts only a few hours for claim 1 being a well known feature in the art and

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the applicant also admitted this fact in the description of specification in page 1, (lines 15-17).

However, the maceration lasts a few hours is a known feature in the art. As for further evidentiary example for process for the production of juices from fruits and vegetables a maceration time is needed for one hour. See column 5, lines 49-51 of US Patent 6,465,026 B2 to Grassin et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 5-10, 14-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Renzo et al., (EP 0542055 A1). Renzo et al., disclose a device comprising controlled cooling of grapes before being subjected to pressing and/or stalk stripping (see column 5, lines 21-23; indicating a step of transporting the grapes to a press or to a maceration vessel); charging the grapes with carbon dioxide from a tank 27 (see line 25 is connected to a high pressured CO2 tank 25 at the bottom indicating that liquid CO2 is connected with pipe 25 as it is a known feature in a pressurized CO2 tank liquid portion remains at the bottom side and the gas portion remains at the top side) during transport via the cooling chamber 4A and 4B; a harvest reception vessel (inherent at the entry point of cooling chamber 4A (loading zone 2); a connection line to harvest

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reception vessel (inherent as the harvest to be loaded at the loading zone 2); a connection to the press (inherent because the press is performed after the cooling operation as disclosed above); each of the connection lines including conveyor 16, 17 being configured for transporting the grapes wherein at least one feed line (loading zone 2) is provided to at least one of the connection lines 25 through which carbon dioxide is fed into the at least one of the connection lines 16/17; a reservoir/tank contains both liquid and gaseous carbon dioxide (it is inherent a liquid carbon dioxide cylinder is topped by gaseous carbon dioxide); a gaseous carbon dioxide is brought into contact with grapes (as there is nozzles 6 and 21 it inherent that gaseous (after spray from nozzles 6 CO₂ liquid becomes gaseous carbon dioxide is brought into contact of the grapes); the grapes moves through movable door 60 as a grape movement valve and then through metering member 14 being another valve ; temperature sensors or probes 33, 72 and 75 for detecting temperatures of grapes; a control circuit 34 controls the temperature of grapes with the help of temperature sensors and carbon dioxide and operation of fans 30 and nozzles 6/21; one or more valves 58 for movement of carbon dioxide; the charging of carbon dioxide is interrupted (flow of CO₂ is controlled by the electronic controller 34 as it is connected with temperature sensors 33, CO₂ control valves 58 and fans 30 so that the grapes are cooled to a predetermined temperature for example 5 degree C; See column 4, lines 1-12). Renzo et al., disclose the invention substantially as claimed as stated above except cooling to 7 degrees C. Regarding 7 degree C, Renzo et al., do not specifically say that cooling degree should be 7 degree C but range of cooling degree as mentioned by Renzo et al. is 0-15 degree C which is known by the Applicant as mentioned in his arguments.

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The general concept of selecting a set cooling temperature for grapes before the grape is taken to a press or maceration process fall within the realm common knowledge as obvious mechanical expedient and this is illustrated by Renzo et al., in which Renzo et al., teach the use of a set cooling temperature of 5 degree set temperature (See column 2, lines 6-11; on the basis of grape quality out of the temperature range 0 to 15 degree C (See column 1, lines 53-58) . column 4, lines 6-12). Therefore, Renzo et al., it is obvious that renzo et al., select a set cooling temperature of grapes at 7 degree C on some other grape quality.

It indicates that Renzo et al., is able to maintain the cooling temperature at any point between 0-15 degrees C which includes 7 degree C and hence Renzo et al., is obviously capable of maintaining 7 degree C by interrupting the flow of Co₂ as and when necessary. See Fig. 1-4, abstract, column 2, line 41 to column6, line 4. Regarding maceration process lasts only a few hours for claim 1 being an alternative option to press; the Examiner does not have to address the implication of this amendment portion. However, the maceration lasts a few hours is a known feature in the art. As for evidentiary example for process for the production of juices from fruits and vegetables a maceration time is needed for one hour. See column 5, lines 49-51 of US Patent 6,465,026 B2 to Grassin et al.

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Renzo et al., do not specifically disclose if a liquid or solid carbon dioxide is brought into contact with grapes. However, for cooling grapes or any fruit by a cryogenic means like either gaseous or solid carbon dioxide is known feature in the art.

Moreover, an ordinary skill of art is able to utilize the control circuit 34 to obtain flow of either a gaseous or liquid carbon dioxide on the grapes. Therefore, it is an obvious choice of an ordinary skill of art to choose gaseous or liquid carbon dioxide or solid carbon dioxide for cooling

purposes of grapes or the like. The cooling of grapes can be done by using dry ice pellets (solid carbon dioxide) is a known feature. For evidentiary example see Applicant's IDS EP 1096005 A1 to Robert et al., Para [0021]. And also for further evidentialry reference US Patent 4,615,887 to Hickinbotham (see claim 13).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 09/02/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The Applicant argued that Renzo does not disclose interrupting the flow of carbon dioxide if the temperature drops below 7 degree C as it recited in the present claims. The Examiner disagrees. As Renzo et al., disclose an electronic controller/processor 34 connecting temperature sensors 33, 75, CO2 control valves 58, and fans 30 and controlling the temperature between 0-15 degree C with example of 5 degree C, Renzo et al., is capable of interrupting the flow of carbon dioxide if the temperature drops below 7 degree C and thus Renzo et al., obviously read claim 3 and 4. Therefore, Renzo does not disclose interrupting the flow of carbon dioxide if the temperature drops below 7 degree C as it recited in the present claims is not true and rejections are true.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MOHAMMAD M. ALI whose telephone number is (571)272-4806. The examiner can normally be reached on maxiflex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl J. Tyler can be reached on 571-272-4808. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mohammad M Ali/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3744